

Indian Head is a model of community spirit and cooperation. The activities that have been sponsored to commemorate this auspicious occasion exemplify the deep devotion of Indian Head's residents to the community. The spirit and enthusiasm of Indian Head's citizens have been the foundation of its success. These celebrations provide the opportunity to renew the dedication that has supported Indian Head throughout its history and helped it to develop into one of Maryland's most attractive communities.

We in Maryland are fortunate to have an area as community-oriented as Indian Head. I join the citizens of Charles County in sharing their pride in Indian Head's past and optimism for continued success in the years to come.●

SUMMER INTERNS

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to offer recognition to my summer interns, who have dedicated their time and effort this summer, serving the people of Michigan on my behalf. In an era when cynicism about our Government and the political process runs rampant, they have maintained an optimistic view of our Government, and have made considerable sacrifices so that they could play a more active role in the American political system. They were of great help to us this summer and I am grateful for their service. In appreciation of their hard work and dedication, I submit a list of their names, and ask that it be printed in the RECORD.

The list follows:

Lisa Maria Carroll, Nathan E. Clukey, Christopher DeMuth, Hope Durant, Michael J. Earle, Robert Glazier, John Iakovides, Thomas Marshall, Danny Mayer, Denise Mills, Michael Mikelic, Ryan O'Donovan, Stephen V. Potenza, Barry Regan, John Sanke, Sergio Santiviago, Nedda Shayota, Joseph A. Snearline, Matthew J. Suhr, Courtenay Youngblood, Paul Yu.

Mr. President, these fine young men and women performed valuable service assisting with legislative research, front office support, and playing for my expansion softball team. Like all expansion teams, this year was a rebuilding year. Our team's record may not have been the greatest, Mr. President, but without the interns, I would have had no softball team.

On a more serious note Mr. President, it is my belief that a congressional internship is the best and most effective way to learn firsthand about the governmental process. Our interns are given the chance to observe and participate in all kinds of activities essential to the workings of the Senate. From committee markups to floor speeches and votes, to the daily workings of the office, they have been given a diverse and extensive lesson in the governmental process. It is a lesson that, regardless of their future ambitions, will remain with them throughout the course of their lives.●

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS AND HERITAGE OF AFRICAN-AMERICANS

● Mr. BRADLEY. Mr. President, our country is a remarkable mosaic—a mixture of races, languages, ethnicities, and religions—that grows increasingly diverse with each passing year. Nowhere is this incredible diversity more evident than in the State of New Jersey. In New Jersey, schoolchildren come from families that speak 120 different languages at home. These different languages are used in over 1.4 million homes in my State. I have always believed that one of the United States greatest strengths is the diversity of the people that make up its citizenry and I am proud to call the attention of my colleagues to an event in New Jersey that celebrates the importance of the diversity that is a part of America's collective heritage.

On June 4, 1995, the Garden State Arts Center in Holmdel, NJ, began its 1995 Spring Heritage Festival Series. The heritage festival program salutes some of the different ethnic communities that contribute so greatly to New Jersey's diverse makeup. Highlighting old country customs and culture, the festival programs are an opportunity to express pride in the ethnic backgrounds that are a part of our collective heritage. Additionally, the Spring Heritage Festivals will contribute proceeds from their programs to the Garden State Arts Center's Cultural Center Fund which presents theater productions free-of-charge to New Jersey's school children, seniors, and other deserving residents. The heritage festival thus not only pays tribute to the cultural influences from our past, it also makes a significant contribution to our present day cultural activities.

On Saturday, September 16, 1995, the Heritage Festival Series celebrated the Eighth Annual Festival of the Arts and Heritage of African-Americans. The first African-American Heritage Festival, founded by Clinton Crocker of Tinton Falls, NJ, was held in September, 1988. The festival took its place in the series in September, 1988. The festival took its place in the series of heritage festivals at the Garden State Arts Center under the leadership of Julian Robinson, then commissioner of the New Jersey Highway Authority and was so ably organized this year by Carol Washington.

Clinton Crocker's early vision of a major festival which would reflect pride in the African-American presence in New Jersey, has laid the foundation for an outstanding event that celebrates the beauty and diversity of African-American culture. The festival presented a wide variety of performing arts including: soloists, African dance troupes, gospel singers, and African story-tellers sharing traditional tales. The festival also showcased ethnic foods from the African continent as well as African-American favorites and was undoubtedly one of the highlights of the day.

The African-American Heritage Festival has proven itself to be an outstanding event over the years. The festival continues to grow in popularity each year, more than doubling its annual attendance from its first year. With increased popularity has come increased profits which has led to the development of a Relief Fund for Uwanda and other needy African nations. Profits also go to fund recreational activities for needy seniors, the disadvantaged, and for scholarship funds for college students.

Congratulations once again on the eighth anniversary of the Festival of the Arts and Heritage of African-Americans. Best wishes for continued success and to all who attended the festival to celebrate a day of pride in their ethnicity.●

TRIBUTE TO AL MEIER

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, it is an honor for me to rise today to honor a distinguished citizen from my State—Iowa Commissioner of Labor Al Meier. When Al retired on July 28, he stepped down as the longest serving labor commissioner in the United States.

Over the years, Al Meier has been an ally on the side of working Iowans. Before Al was named labor commissioner in 1977, he served on the OSHA Review Commission, and prior to that he represented the AFL-CIO. He has also chaired the organizational committee of the Governor's Safety and Health Conference.

As labor commissioner, Al was responsible for helping Iowans stay safe on the job and off. Accountable for all division of labor programs, Al's duties included safety inspections, such as elevator and amusement ride inspections; wage payment collection, child labor, minimum wage, asbestos removal, and contractor registration.

I can tell you that no one worked harder on keeping Iowans safe in the workplace than Al Meier. But his work wasn't just about safety, as vital as that is. It was also about security—economic security—helping Iowans live better lives, and building a better future for our State. He was, and still is, at his best when it comes to helping others fight for a better life.

Al has been a fighter all his life. A former Golden Gloves contender, he never relinquished the fighting spirit it took for him to compete in the boxing ring. Whether it was through his work in political organizing, negotiating on the Hill, or representing the union, Al has been a fighter and a builder. He built coalitions. He built opportunities. He built a stronger Iowa.

And throughout it all, Al has never compromised in his commitment to helping people. I know of no greater tribute, and no better legacy, than that.

Mr. President, I am proud to salute the leadership and selfless service that